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PRIORITY MILAN

ROUTINE ROME, MONTEVIDEO

SUBJ: CORRIERE DELLA SERA ARTICLE ON DAN MITRIONE

REF: MILAN 507; MONTEVIDEO 881

1. DEPT/AID APPRECIATE YOUR CALLING ATTENTION TO SUBJECT ARTICLE AND AUTHORIZE YOU MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN LETTER TO EDITOR:

A. WE EMPHATICALLY DENY STATEMENT THAT MITRIONE TAUGHT TORTURE METHODS TO BRAZILIAN OR URUGUAYAN POLICE. AS A ~~PRO~~FESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISOR, MITRIONE REPEATEDLY STRESSED HUMANE AND LEGAL METHODS IN DEALING WITH CRIMINALS. ALLEGATION THAT HE TAUGHT TORTURE WAS SPREAD BY TUPAMAROS, AFTER THEY BRUTALLY MURDERED HIM IN EFFORT JUSTIFY HIS SLAYING IN FACE OF STRONG TIDE OF PUBLIC OPINION ~~IN~~ IN URUGUAY AND ELSEWHERE, RUNNING AGAINST THEM. BEFORE HE WAS KILLED, PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING POPE PAUL, HAD APPEALED FOR HIS RELEASE, AND THAT OF A BRAZILIAN DIPLOMAT ALSO KIDNAPPED BY THE TUPAMAROS THE SAME DAY. ON AUGUST 8, 1970, POPE PAUL, SPEAKING TO A CROWD IN THE COURTYARD OF HIS SUMMER HOME, WAS QUOTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AS SAYING THAT HE WAS WORRIED "OVER THE KIDNAPPING OF PERSONS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN" BY THE GUERRILLAS, ADDING "VILE BLACKMAIL IS IN CIVILLY INTOLERABLE, EVEN IF BLACKMAIL HAS BEEN MULTIPLYING IN DIFFERENT PARTS AND IN WAYS EVER MORE UNPLEASANT."

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HE SAID "WE PRAY THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE KIDNAPPINGS OF PERSONS WILL GIVE UP THEIR ATTITUDE."

B. FACT THAT MITRIONE GRADUATED FROM FBI NATIONAL C‡ACADEMY (COURSE 59 FROM 3-18-57 TO 6-6-57) IS NOT UNUSUAL NOR DOES IT INDICATE THAT HE PERFORMED ANY WORK SUBSEQUENTLY FOR THAT ORGANIZATION. THOUSANDS OF NON-FBI LAW ENFORCEMNT ADMINISTRTORS HAVE ATTENDED THE FBI ACADEMY; 6,034 (INCLUDING 211 FOREIGNERS FROM 47 COUNTRIES) HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE FBI ACADEMY SINCE 1935.

C. MITRIONE WAS CHIEF OF POLICE (NOT SHERIFF) OF RICHMOND, INDIANA, FROM 1956 TO 1960, HAVING ENTERED THE RICHMOND POLICE FORE‡CE IN 1945 AS A PATROLMAN AND WORKED HIS WAY UP. HE WAS RESPECTED BY ALL RACES FOR HIS FAIR ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW IN THAT CITY. THE O‡PEOPLE OF RICHMOND MOURNED HIS DEALT‡‡TH IN 1970 AND AC0‡CORDED HIM A HERO'S FUNERAL FROM THE HOLY FAMILY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WHERE HE WAS A LAY READER DURING THE YEARS HE WAS SERVING WITH THE RICHMOND POLICE. A PLAQUE IN HIS MEMORY IS NOW PROUDLY DISPLAYED IN THE RICHMOND CITY HALL.

D. MITRIONE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES WITH HIS PARENTS AS A CHILD, HAVING BEEN BORN AUGUST 4, 1920, AT BISCACCIA, ITALY.

2. PARENTHETICAL REFERENCE TO SENDIC IN QUOTED PARAGRAPH REFTEL APPEARS PART OF EFFORT ABSOLVE SENDIC IN MITRIONE CASE. IF SO, MAY INCLUDE IN LETTER TO EDITOR INFORMATION POLICE REPORTED THAT IN TUPAMARO HIDEOUT WHERE SENDIC ARRESTED AUGUST 7, 1970, -- THREE DAYS BEFORE MITRIONE BODY FOUND -- MITRIONE'S NAME-ENGRAVED WRIST WATCH, MITRIONE PASSPORT, IDENTIFICATION CARD AND OTHER PERSN‡ON-AL PAPERS MITRIONE CARRYING WHEN HE WAS KIDNAPPED JULY 31, 1970, AS WELL AS DR. CLAUDE FLY'S PASSPORT, AND WEDDING BAND OF BRAZILIAN CONSUL GOMIDE -- ALL KIDNAP VICTIMS OF TUPAMAROS. POLICE TOOK THESE AS CLEAR INDICATION INVOLVEMENT SENDIC, AND OTHER TUPAR‡MARO LEADERS APPREHENDED AT SAME TIME, IN ALL THREE CASES.

3. IN AMPLIFICATION ABOVE POINTS YOU MAY DRAW UPON MONTEVIDEO 891 AS APPROPRIATE.

4. PLEASE REPORT IF AND WHEN YOUR LETTER CARRIED AND ANY REACTIN‡ON.

DECONTROL 5/25/72 44